

REMARKS

Claims 22-25 and 27-33 remain for reconsideration. Claims 1-21 and 34-40 have been previously cancelled. Claim 26 is herein cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The title of the invention has been amended to one believed more descriptive of the claimed invention.

Claims 22-25, 29, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,237,630 to Hogg.

Claims 22-25, 28, and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,879,571 to Kalman.

Claims 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hogg.

These rejections are respectfully traversed based on the following discussion.

Briefly, embodiments of the present invention are directed to methods for forming an alignment dots on waveguides. A first waveguide and a second waveguide may be aligned by applying an alignment dot on end surfaces of the cores of first and second waveguides. Various methods are disclosed as recited in claims 22 and 33. Once formed the alignment dots may be positioned in

close proximity to one another, and are melted together. Surface tension pulls the first and second waveguides into alignment. This is disclosed for example on page 3, lines 5-7 of the patent application.

Independent claim 22 has been amended to now recite "...filling the mask opening with an optical material to form a self-aligning dot, the optical material having a melting point and when melted in the proximity of a second alignment dot on a second waveguide, surface tension pulls the waveguide and the second waveguide into alignment with each other" (emphasis added).

Similarly, independent claim 33 has been amended to recite:

"...removing the uncured portion of the photo sensitive optical material, the cured portion of the photosensitive material forming the alignment dot, the alignment dot having a melting point and when melted in the proximity of a second alignment dot on a second waveguide, surface tension pulls the waveguide and the second waveguide into alignment with each other"

(emphasis added).

Neither Kalman nor Hogg teach or suggest this feature. Hogg appears to be directed to a method for making a mirror or reflector in a fiber optic splice. This is unrelated to forming alignment dots with a material having a melting point to create a surface tension for alignment.

Likewise, Kalman is directed to a method for forming lenses on optical waveguides using masks as shown for Example in Figures 6A-6F. Again, this is unrelated to forming alignment dots with a material having a melting point

to create a surface tension for alignment as now recited in the claims. Thus, the claims as amended are neither anticipated by the prior art of record nor rendered obvious. As amended, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 22-25 and 27-33 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to Intel's Deposit Account number 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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